DEPARTMENT OF STATE, A/CDC/MR
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TS AUTH REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☒
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

Q: What ground installations will the Saudis get with the AWACS? Will these integrate with other Arab systems?

A: An extensive Saudi ground-based command, control, and communications (C^3) system has been designed. This ground-based system will consist of ten long-range radars (five of which are already in Saudi inventories), several command and operations centers, and a computerized microwave communication system linking these radars and centers.

This system will be supplemented by 12 Saudi civil aviation radars.

Neither the Saudi AWACS nor their ground-based C^3 system could be integrated with other Arab systems without extensive modifications to those systems and without transferring large amounts of additional US-designed equipment. Saudi radar operators could, of course, pass data verbally to other Arab countries via radio or commercial communications lines. However, such data would be limited in amount and in usefulness since this method of transmission is slow, unreliable, and insecure.